Completed Pollution Prevention Project Case Study

United States Department of Energy
Office of Environmental Management
Fact Sheet

Avoided MLLW through Segregation and Reclassification

Los Alamos National Laboratory

Original Problem

Several laboratories that handled radioactive materials were cleaned out, generating a large amount of mixed low level waste (MLLW) and low level waste (LLW). Much of the non-RCRA material was incorrectly packaged together with RCRA hazardous material, creating a larger volume of MLLW than was necessary. Some of the non-RCRA material included paper, packaging, binders, and other office supplies.

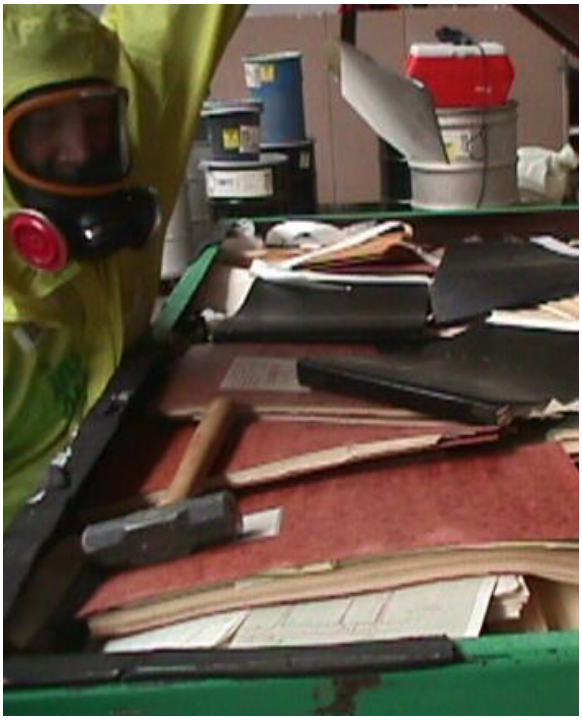
The Project Solution

A team at TA-54 examined 120 containers of legacy MLLW from the cleaned out labs, and the LLW was segregated from the MLLW. Some of the LLW was crushed to minimize volume. The MLLW was characterized and repackaged more efficiently before it was sent away for treatment.

Value of Improvement

The addition of the segregation step saved approximately $86,000 in avoided treatment costs for this project. Two 90 cubic foot containers were filled with LLW during the project. TA-54 plans to continue its segregation efforts in the future as the opportunities arise.

Lifecycle Waste Reduction	
Lifecycle Waste Reduction	180 cubic feet
Commencement Date	1999
Project Useful Life (Years)	Indefinite



DOE Monetary Benefits	
Total Project Cost	NA
Lifecycle Savings	$86,000
Return on Investment	NA

Benefits At-A-Glance

- Segregating the LLW from the MLLW significantly reduces the total cost of treating the waste.
- Reduces the amount of MLLW that must be sent off-site for treatment.
- Segregation permits more efficient repackaging and reduces total volume.

Building Upon An Office of Science and Technology Demonstration Success

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Summary Data	
Priority Area:	Waste Minimization Projects
Project Type:	Source Reduction
Total Project Cost:	NA
Lifecycle Savings:	$86,000
Implementing Group:	FWO-SWO
Benefiting Group:	FWO-SWO
Useful Life Years:	Indefinite
Return on Investment:	NA
Lifecycle Waste Reduction:	180 cubic feet MLLW from this project
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